PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Spring/Summer 2022

Town of Palm Beach Mayor Danielle Hickox Moore, Palm Beach State College President Ava Parker, and former Palm Beach Mayor Lesly Stockard Smith, longtime scholarship supporters of Palm Beach State through the Mary Alice Fortin Foundation.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Bridging the Gap Between Ambition & Achievement

About this Report

The Palm Beach State College President's Report examines issues of importance related to the education of today's students for tomorrow's world. Our last issue explored how Palm Beach State is helping meet the demand for smart, skilled, and compassionate healthcare practitioners in all disciplines, and how the most advanced simulation tools and technology are supplementing hands-on clinical training to expand student experience.

This issue explores how scholarships and other forms of financial assistance bridge the gap between academic desire and economic reality for most students, and how relieving some of the burden of cost helps students succeed in both the classroom and the community.

Palm Beach State Dental Hygiene Class of 2022 graduates Stephanie Tart, Brittain Dagenhart, and Cynthia Cooper celebrate success on the path to

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Your comments and suggestions are welcomed and appreciated. Please address them to:

Ava L. Parker, J.D.
President
Palm Beach State College
4200 Congress Avenue
Lake Worth, FL 33461

Bianca Labrador,
a fulfilling future.

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Felipe R. Julio

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A Conversation with the Palm Beach State Family

The President's Roundtable

We are introducing an occasional new feature with this edition of the President's Report. Called The President's Roundtable, it seeks to broaden understanding and build bonds between executive leadership of Palm Beach State College and the students we serve. Participants represent the broad spectrum of Palm Beach State students. Because of space limitations this is an edited version. The production was recorded in the office of President Ava Parker on March 15, 2022.

For the complete video please visit the Palm Beach State College website at tinyurl.com/2p8tb3u7.

From left to right introducing the "Roundtable" discussion members:

Lorena Martin Reyes
An international student pursuing an associate degree at PBSC

Tarruck Wheeler
Honors Student Advisory Council President and Computer science major

Ava L. Parker, J.D.
PBSC President

David Rutherford
Vice President of Institutional Advancement

Dr. Peter Barbatis
Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management

Brenda Martinez
Student in the Crime Scene Technology program

President Ava Parker: It is such a pleasure to have you all here. While we know how important it is to have direct, two-way communication with the students we serve, the reality is that the day-to-day activities of my job too often get in the way. So, we came up with the idea of a Roundtable conversation like this in the President's Report. The goal is ensuring that meaningful dialogue happens on a regular basis. This does not, of course, replace one-on-one conversations whenever opportunities present themselves—I, for one, really enjoy those casual encounters at the cafeteria or around the campuses. Let's start by introducing ourselves.

Mr. David Rutherford: I am Vice President of Institutional Advancement. That includes the Foundation, the arm of the college that raises financial support for the college and students like yourselves.

Dr. Peter Barbatis: I'm Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management. Those two services work together to ensure we are doing everything we can to support our students' success and meet our enrollment goals. It's a pleasure to be with you and to be able to serve as your advocate at the President's Cabinet, a group of senior managers who meet regularly with President Parker. I believe she can attest to the fact that anytime we talk about decisions, I always bring up the student perspective, and what we can do to ensure the experience is a positive one.

Ms. Brenda Martinez: I'm a student here at Palm Beach State College. I'm currently taking classes in the Crime Scene Technology program. Once I complete the program and get my degree, I plan to apply to multiple sheriff's departments as a crime scene investigator. After getting field experience I'd like to move to a big city and become a crime scene investigator there. I would eventually like to be a forensic psychologist, but for now I like the idea of being at the scene, taking photos, and collecting evidence.

Ms. Lorena Martin Reyes: I am an international student from Madrid, Spain. I am taking classes to graduate with an associate degree, after which I am planning to transfer to a world-recognized institution for business, majoring in international business. After getting my bachelor's degree I would love to travel around the world, get to know people, learn about other cultures. I am super happy to be here. Thank you so much for this opportunity!

> "I think that education is the most powerful tool we can have as human beings."
>
> **Lorena Martin Reyes**

President Parker: And we are happy to have you here!

Mr. Tarruck Wheeler: I'm a non-traditional student (outside the usual 18-25 age range), and I'm president of our Honors Student Advisory Council. I am a computer science major with a focus on cybersecurity. After matriculating to another university and graduating, I hope to work internationally, or possibly at the United States State Department or an NGO. I'd like to be a philanthropist and help people obtain sustainable housing and gain literacy with technology, as well as using technology to improve food production and education. That's my end game.

Mr. Rutherford: What excites you most about the future?

Mr. Wheeler: I think the possibilities are endless, because we can always grow, and accomplish anything we want—especially with a good education. As long as that education is available to all of us, I believe the future is bright and we can accomplish anything.

Mr. Rutherford: How about you, Lorena? What excites you about the future?

Ms. Martin Reyes: I think that education is the most powerful tool we can have as human beings. By working on our education, we grow as individuals, we can achieve whatever we want and make our dreams come true.

Ms. Martinez: I'm excited to get out there in the real world after being sheltered for so long in West Palm Beach! Palm Beach State has offered me so many opportunities, chances to make friends with people who like the same things I do, study together, and just hang out.

Mr. Rutherford: It's so energizing to hear your perspectives on the future and the fact that in your eyes the future is so bright. We believe in the same things, even though we are not in the same age category. It's always energizing to hear the optimism that you have for the future.

Ms. Martin Reyes: My dream has always been to attend higher education in the United States. I don't know where I will finish my education, but I know that Palm Beach State College is the key to my future. This is where I am starting the work for my future.

Mr. Rutherford: You may think this is a dangerous question to ask, but it is one that President Parker loves to ask students because we really aspire to find out from you what we are doing well and how we can get better. Let's start with what we are doing well.

Ms. Martinez: The tutoring centers and libraries – I love them so much! Especially the quiet rooms and quiet sections of the libraries. The tutors are great! Sometimes I don't want to ask the professor and often things online don't explain it well.

Mr. Rutherford: Anything we could improve on?

Ms. Martinez: Longer library hours? But I know people have to go home sometime!

Ms. Martin Reyes: I really like the library, and the fact that Palm Beach State College has a lot of free student resources, such as the counseling center. I found that to be very supportive. As an International Student I would like to add one thing. I struggle with the cost of college. I understand that FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is generally available only to United States citizens. I wish there was some other forms of financial assistance.

"During the COVID shutdown we were the only college I spoke with that provided funds directly into student accounts."

Tarruck Wheeler

Mr. Rutherford: Please come by the Foundation office and we may have some suggestions. Tarruck, in your role as Student Trustee, what do you see as things we are doing well and ways in which we can improve?

Mr. Wheeler: An amazing takeaway that I gained from the Trustee Conference in Washington was that we got to hear from the Secretary of Education, Secretary of Labor, and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden. From listening to them, and hearing from Student Trustees from many other colleges, Palm Beach State is doing a lot of things very, very well. For example, during the COVID shutdown we were the only college I spoke with that provided funds directly into student accounts. Also, we were the only community college in which the president led creation of a response team. Our mental health services were there for our students, as were our tutoring services. I wouldn't have been able to get the grades that I have without those services.

Mr. Rutherford: Are there any other things you would like to learn from your students, President Parker?

President Parker: Sure. How many of you work while going to school?

Ms. Martinez: I'm working.

Mr. Wheeler: I work for my father's business, and I am also a fulltime father. That keeps me busy!

Ms. Martin Reyes: I'm a fulltime student.

President Parker: What's great about Palm Beach State is that we have a balance between students who have jobs while going to school, so we make that work; and others who are fulltime. What we find with those who work and go to school is sometimes the work takes over, they take on more hours and drop out that semester with the full intention of coming back. Some never come back, never achieve that goal of getting a college education. We encourage people to go full time or make the job secondary to their education. We think that's better for them to achieve their goals.

President Parker: What about your classes? Are they face-to-face, online, or both?

Ms. Martinez: Mine are face-to-face. I find it difficult to focus during online classes. I tried taking anatomy online two years ago. It was a bad experience. And I've had some difficulty finding live classes.

Ms. Martin Reyes: I try to take in-person classes, because as an international student I wanted to get the whole experience and get to know more students. Right now, I'm taking two classes in person and two classes hybrid. It's working well.

Mr. Wheeler: My first semester was all in person, which was fantastic. But now I prefer live online. I love the modality and flexibility of online classes. You're at home, you have your computer in front of you so you can search and get more information. It's very intimate – we have a class where there's eight of us on Zoom. We share our screens, chat with each other, help each other. Very interactive. And when we sign off, we are comfortably at home!

President Parker: Thank you all so much! In closing, I would like for this exercise not to be seen as just an interesting hour together, but more as the start of a conversation. When you think of things, please share them with us. As you encounter issues like classes that you wanted to register for that weren't on the schedule, please let student services know. We may not be able to fix it right away, or in some rare cases we may not be able to change it at all, but at the very least we will consider it.

So, know this. **You have a voice.** And know that **we care about you and your success.** Know that **we are a resource.** Palm Beach State College is not just a place for you to go to class. It is a place where you live and grow and develop relationships. Because you are not just a student here – you are part of a family.

To watch the entire interview please visit:

tinyurl.com/2p8tb3u7

"Because you are not just a student here – you are part of a family."

President Ava Parker

Scholarships & Financial Assistance:

Bridging the Gap Between Ambition & Achievement

Meet Sara G., a native Floridian who grew up in a modest house in a 1970s neighborhood not far from Palm Beach State College's Lake Worth campus. The eldest of three children, Sara walked with some of the neighborhood kids to the local elementary school; rode her bike to middle school; and now takes the bus to high school. Dad is a plumber, mom works in home healthcare, and Sara has a parttime job after classes. She's doing fine in high school – not top of her class but comfortably in the middle. Sara wants to follow mom's footsteps and become a nurse. They all understand the value of a good education. But as they begin talks with the high school guidance counselor, the reality of college cost sets in. They need assistance.

Sara is not a real student—she's a composite of thousands attending Palm Beach State. But the need for financial assistance is very real. "Because of the rising cost of everything, education included, more often than not there is a gap between the cost of attendance and what students can pay," explained Dr. Peter Barbatis, vice president of student services. "Even with our very low tuition rates, currently $101 per credit hour, about 65 to 70% of our total student population needs financial assistance. The good news is that over the past three years we have awarded over $80 million per year in financial assistance and scholarships. The money is here for students who apply for it."

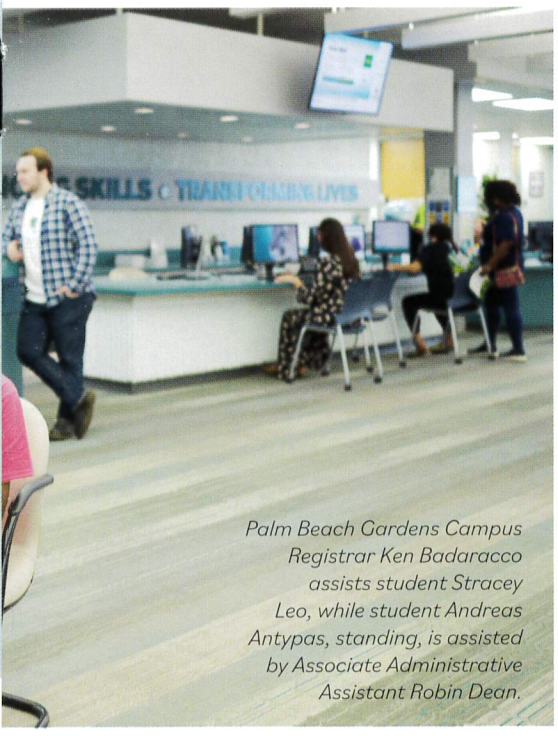
> "Continuing education beyond high school should be determined by the student's ability and ambition, not by his or her financial situation."
>
> **Dr. Peter Barbatis**

The application process can seem overwhelming, but free help is available at our Student Services offices at all five of our campuses. Some basic information is also in the accompanying article, "The Buck Starts Here."

In addition to state and federal financial assistance, generous individuals, foundations, and corporate entities, some featured in this magazine, sponsor scholarships through the Palm Beach State College Foundation. "Every dollar spent on scholarships comes back to society many times over," said David Rutherford, vice president of institutional advancement and executive director of the foundation. "It is an investment in one that benefits all."

During the 2021-22 academic year the foundation awarded 1,595 scholarships. Included in that number are some students who were brought to the United States as children of undocumented immigrants. Under the President Obama-era program

known as DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), these students attended local public schools but because they are not US citizens or eligible non-citizens, they are not eligible to apply for federal or state financial assistance. Under current Florida law, DACA students who



Palm Beach Gardens Campus Registrar Ken Badaracco assists student Stracey Leo, while student Andreas Antypas, standing, is assisted by Associate Administrative Assistant Robin Dean.

attended public primary schools for two years or more are, however, offered in-state resident tuition rates. Some of these students, like many others, still need financial assistance, often provided by the scholarships from gracious donors to the Palm Beach State College Foundation.

"We are fortunate because most of our donors live locally so they can see what we are doing for students and the community," Mr. Rutherford added. "In addition, because the cost of attending Palm Beach State College is so low compared to other state schools, we offer donors great value and impact. Three credit hours here cost $303. Those same three credit hours at some other institution could cost $600. So, the donors' dollars go twice as far."

The Buck Starts Here:

Student Services Offices Sort Through the Alphabet Soup of Forms & Programs

There are just **three things that students who are US citizens or documented residents need to know about getting Financial Assistance** to attend Palm Beach State College:

1. It all begins with FAFSA, the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid.
2. Then the student completes the Palm Beach State College application.
3. There are offices full of smart, friendly people on all Palm Beach State campuses eager to help students through every step of the process – and again, it's FREE.

And here's the best part.

Over the last three years Palm Beach State has awarded more than $80 million each year in financial assistance and scholarships.

65-70% of PBSC students receive financial assistance

About **8%** receive one or more scholarships

81% of those scholarships are provided by PBSC ; 19% by outside organizations

Palm Beach State has over **200** scholarship funds

1,595 scholarships awarded 21-22 academic year

Florida Power & Light Company & Palm Beach State College:

Long-Term Partners Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders

When today's Palm Beach State College was founded in 1933, Florida Power & Light likely provided its electricity. In the decades that followed, relationships between Florida's first public community college and what is now the largest energy company in the United States, were formed and grew to directly benefit today's students and the communities the company serves.

"It often begins with the question: How can we align to support our mutual goals?," explains Whitney Cunningham Walker, Senior Community Relations Specialist at Florida Power & Light Company, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy. That simple question has led to a myriad of partnerships over the years – including scholarships and other forms of financial assistance – to groundbreaking work today addressing issues of equitable and diverse workforce development. "Students can get scholarships – that's fantastic – but the conversations we're having with President Parker and other educational leaders show that it takes more than just tuition support – it takes wrap-around services to address the needs of the entire student."

Two PBSC programs with scholarships and enhanced wrap-around services are Electrical Power Technology and Engineering Technology, two-year degree programs. In addition to providing financial support for tuition, they offer students access to advisors to help navigate classroom settings and encourage a sense of belonging, research on the efficacy of service models, and real-world connections including mentorship and job readiness exposure.

Florida Power & Light recently gave an $800,000 grant to Palm Beach State College to enhance these programs and further the equitable workforce development goals, particularly in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields which will provide career opportunities of the future. To ensure ongoing sustainability, the grant also includes a scholarship endowment in perpetuity for tuition and wrap-around expenses for eligible students.

"It's not enough to just cut a check. You must have conversations – listen to each other – find out what the organization needs and what the students need."

Whitney Cunningham Walker

Scholarships:

Investing in Students – Impacting Lives

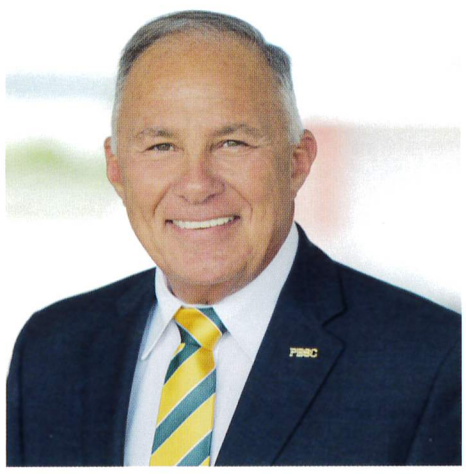
A Palm Beach State scholarship is truly a gift that gives back and pays forward.

If you are a resident of Palm Beach County, you have most likely crossed paths with a Palm Beach State graduate. Scholarships allow students to become the medical professionals treating our healthcare needs and the emergency responders keeping us safe every day. In fact, over 80% of Palm Beach County's first responders receive their education and training at Palm Beach State College while a 95% job placement rate in health sciences is made possible through scholarships and philanthropic giving.

Scholarships do more than cover tuition; they impact lives – mine and yours. By investing in today's students, we are investing in community, business, the arts, an equitable education and workforce, and, most importantly, each other. Equipping today's generation with solid academic and professional paths helps unite college and community, driving the economic and cultural advancements of Palm Beach County through students, thriving in their fields of study; faculty, guiding them with expertise and passion; and donors, believing in the College's mission to transform lives and strengthen this community.

Since 1973, the Palm Beach State College Foundation has been serving students through scholarships, awarding over $6 million in student scholarships over the past four years. These scholarships mean our young people can pursue careers that benefit not only themselves and their families but also Palm Beach County, enhancing the future for all of us.

David A. Rutherford, MA, CFRE
Vice President
Institutional Advancement
Executive Director
PBSC Foundation



2022-2023

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Tarruck Wheeler

From the Cover:

Generations of Compassion & Commitment

Danielle H. Moore's philanthropic and public service roots run deep. Her 70-plus-year heritage dates back to her step-grandfather, Montana oilman Philip Fortin. Her compassion was embellished by her grandmother, Mary Alice Fortin, and nurtured by her mother, Lesly Smith. Mrs. Moore's stepfather, Earl E.T. Smith, former ambassador to Cuba, introduced the family to local politics when he served as mayor of the Town of Palm Beach from 1971-1977; her mother continued the legacy, serving as Palm Beach mayor from 2000-2005. Mrs. Moore accepted the mayor's gavel in 2021.

In the tradition of three generations of strong, compassionate women, Mrs. Moore is also president of the Mary Alice Fortin Foundation. Through it and her personal drive, commitment, and charisma, she has advanced the good work of the foundation and its founders.

Palm Beach State College has been a beneficiary of the foundation and its leaders for decades, mostly in support of scholarships. The college and its emphasis on training for productive careers fits well with Philip Fortin's philanthropic perspective. "We want to help you, because everybody needs a hand once in a while," Mrs. Moore explained. "But you have to be making progress towards self-sufficiency."

Featured above: Palm Beach Mayor Danielle Moore, Palm Beach State College President Ava Parker, and The Honorable Lesly Smith.

Bestselling Author James Patterson's

Passion for Education

Palm Beach resident and the world's bestselling author, James Patterson, is known not only for his books but also for his steadfast support of literacy and education. The Patterson Family Foundation awards scholarships to students at colleges and universities around the country and expanded its generosity to Palm Beach State after Patterson was formally introduced to the school in 2019. Learning about the state's oldest public community college, he felt compelled to help. "Palm Beach State College has an impressive track record in molding students into becoming future leaders, and our scholarships help continue that legacy," Patterson said.

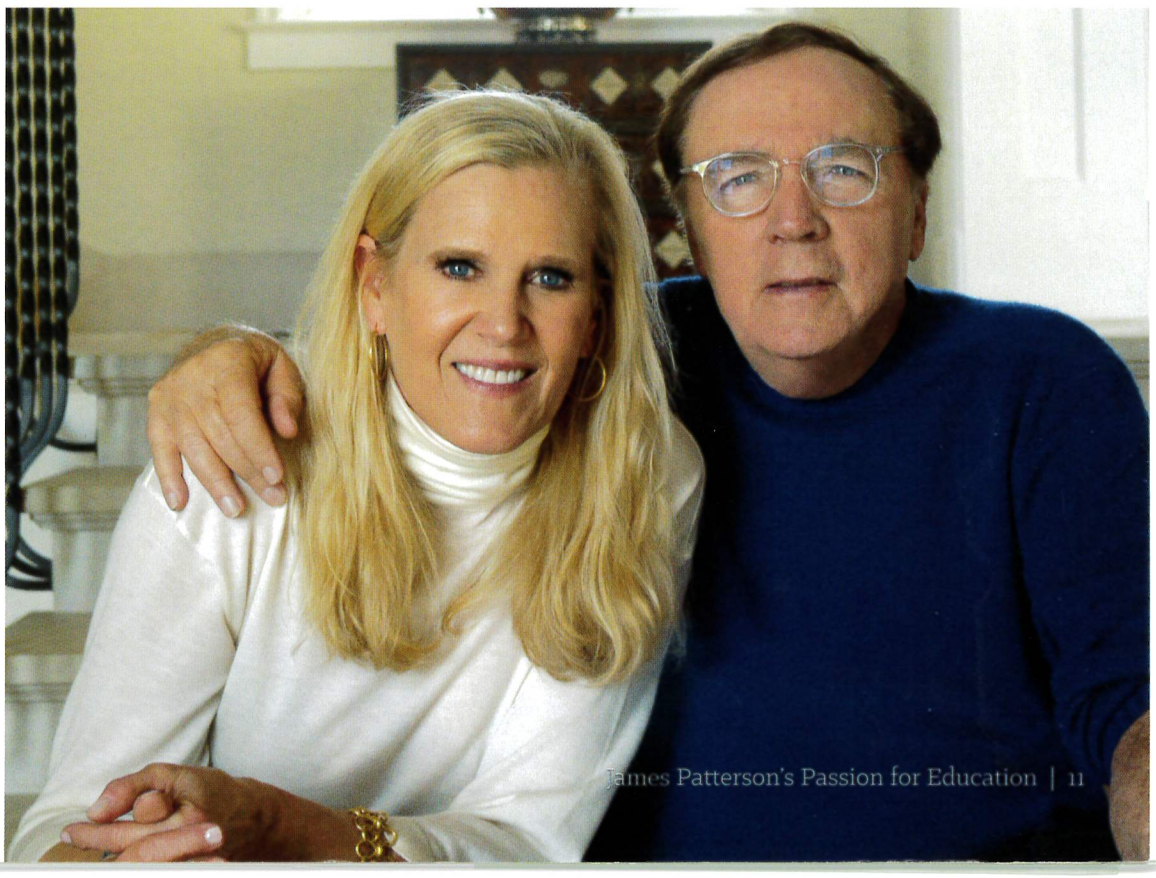
The Patterson's foundation funds twenty fulltime scholarships, awarded annually to incoming PBSC students. While eligibility favors students expressing interest in careers in education, scholarships are available to other students as well.

"Encouraging community college students to pursue their dreams and create new ones is fundamental to building a diverse, thoughtful, and literate society," Patterson said.

"Having James Patterson as a scholarship supporter of Palm Beach State speaks volumes about the progress we have made in elevating Palm Beach State to a level never before seen in the community college landscape," said President Ava Parker. "Mr. Patterson now has a vested interest in what we are doing to further the academic mission of the College."

"Encouraging community college students to pursue their dreams and create new ones is fundamental to building a diverse, thoughtful, and literate society."

James Patterson



Susan and James Patterson

HCA Healthcare and Palm Beach State:

Expanding Decades-Long Partnerships

HCA Healthcare is one of the nation's largest providers of healthcare services, with eighteen hospitals in south Florida. Three are in Palm Beach County – the largest, JFK Medical Center, is just a stone's throw from the Palm Beach State Lake Worth campus. So, it's no surprise that The Community's College has a decades-long relationship with the healthcare powerhouse.

That relationship recently grew with the addition of HCA Healthcare's Associate Vice President for Community Engagement, Ellice Martinez, to the Palm Beach State College Foundation board of directors. "I believe there will be increased opportunities to see what Palm Beach State needs in the health sciences world, and what we can provide," she said. "That could include additional monetary support for scholarships and technology, as well as increased access to our hospital network for students' clinical work."

Ellice is no stranger to PBSC. A second-generation south Floridian, she took the majority of her classes at Palm Beach State while enrolled at Florida Atlantic University. "I really enjoyed my time here. Classes were smaller so professors could be more attentive; student life a little less pressured." After graduation she joined the advancement department at Broward Community College, remaining there for thirteen years before joining HCA.

Ellice is not the only HCA Healthcare executive serving in voluntary positions at Palm Beach State. "Suzanne Bertsch-Gibson is our chief nursing officer and serves on the college's nursing advisory board," Ellice explained. "She is a tremendous advocate who makes sure Palm Beach State gets the attention it deserves."

Regarding future scholarships, Ellice said, "While we are focused on the current nursing shortage, we know that all allied health programs need skilled, compassionate, and motivated medical staff. We like to bring people into HCA Healthcare as a patient care technician or respiratory therapist and invest in them to go back to school to earn more credentials, increasing their skills and upward mobility. We also want to match the student's needs with our needs for recruitment. It doesn't do anyone any good to invest in scholarships unless there are well-paying jobs available."

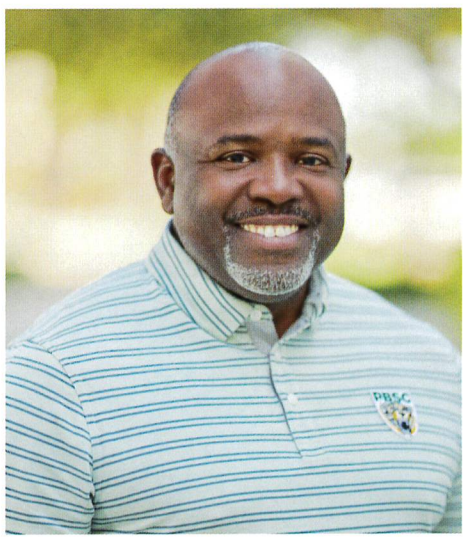
"I believe there will be increased opportunities to see what Palm Beach State needs in the health sciences world, and what we can provide."

Ellice Martinez

Several supporters of the On in 2 scholarship fund: Julia Sanchez, Roy Vargas, Van Williams, Jerry Spielman, Natacha Nettles, Germany Dixon, and Christine Belyeu.

'On in 2' Scholarship Program

Matches Golf & Philanthropy



Golfing great Jack Nicklaus once said, "Pursue what you love, what you are passionate about." That sums up the latest project of Palm Beach State College Boca Raton campus provost and dean of student services, Van Williams. An Army veteran with twenty-four years of higher education experience, Van is passionate about helping young people go to college. He is also passionate about golf. Twice a week, at least. "Why not," he thought, "bring my two passions together."

Van knew that the biggest obstacle for many people considering college is money. And, as an avid golfer as affable as Van, he has a large group of friends.

So he started talking with his friends about his idea: create a scholarship fund for local people to attend Palm Beach State College to earn their two-year degree or certificate, both of which can open doors to meaningful careers. Having experienced college, some may decide to continue their education toward advanced degrees.

He asked one-hundred friends to contribute $100 a year to the scholarship fund. That $10,000 annually will go a long way. The sales pitch was easy: skip one golf outing a year. The money saved from course and cart fees, lunch or dinner, would easily cover the $100 annual contribution.

So far Van has signed up sixty-five contributors. "No question I'll get to a hundred," he promises.

The name of his new organization? On in 2. In golf, that means you get on the green in two shots from the tee. In student life, it means that 2-year degree will get you ON the path to a transformed future.

"I know the transformative effect that a good college education can provide for you. I have witnessed it with my own family."

Van Williams

Foundation Board Member Pia Giannone & Rotary Club of Boca Raton:

Changing Lives, Building Futures

Pia Giannone is the embodiment of the Rotary Club of Boca Raton's slogan, "Changing Lives, Building Futures." She credits the club, which she joined in 2013, with changing her own life and helping her find new meaning and passion through the club's scholarship program.

"I was amazed to learn that the club started its scholarship program in the 1990s," said Pia, who now co-chairs the Rotary Club's scholarship and mentorship committee. In the last seven years, the club has awarded over $163,000 in scholarships to Palm Beach State students. Since the program began, over four hundred students have received Rotary Club scholarships valued at over $1.5 million.

"Palm Beach State is an ideal partner for our program. It is a part of the community, giving people the opportunity to attend college and to succeed! Working closely with the Palm Beach State College Foundation, we created traditional scholarship awards as well as 'career' scholarships directed to students learning trades that can lead to rewarding jobs in heating and air conditioning, marine industries, and auto and diesel mechanics." Rotary Club scholarships also benefit students in Palm Beach State's emergency medical and fire services. "Our communities rely on these graduates to keep us safe."

Pia Giannone with Rotary Club of Boca Raton paramedic scholarship student Connor Reichenbach.

Since the program began, over four hundred students have received Rotary Club scholarships valued at over $1.5 million.

Pia says she is doubly blessed. In addition to the work she does with Rotary, she also directs funds to deserving Palm Beach State students through an endowment established by the Florescue Family Foundation.

"Barry Florescue was a prominent and extremely generous businessman in south Florida whose primary missions were Junior Achievement and Boys and Girls Clubs," she explained. After his death in 2017, Pia suggested that the board of directors of his family foundation create an endowment at Palm Beach State to continue giving a hand up to those he helped in their younger years. The Florescue-funded endowment now has assets over $100,000.

Because of Palm Beach State and the generosity of people like Pia Giannone, the Rotary Club of Boca Raton, and the Florescue Family Foundation, local students have the opportunity to attend college, live, and work close to home and family.

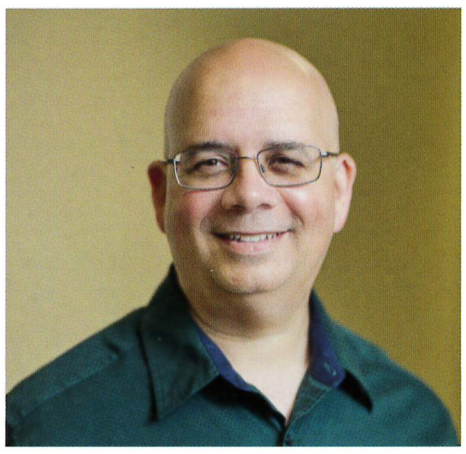
Big Equipment, Dedicated Scholarships, Lucrative Careers

Just outside Industrial & Technical Program Director Eligio Marquez's office stands a row of massive diesel engines on big, movable dollies. Outside is a huge, shiny white semi-truck, the kind that pulls long trailers. Next to that is the front end of a school bus and a fire-rescue ambulance that's seen better days. These, plus rows of automobiles on lifts and boats and motors on trailers in clean, orderly garages are the hands-on teaching tools of future technicians who keep America moving.

"Automotive/diesel and marine, plus heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) are Career Certificate Programs (CCP) at Palm Beach State, the gateways for students to apply for good jobs in their field of study," Mr. Marquez explained. "Certificates generally take about a year to earn, a little less for those attending night classes. Conservatively, about ninety percent of our certificate students find local employment with entry-level pay between $15 and $25 per hour."

What's more, the Rotary Club of Boca Raton has a special scholarship program for students in these skilled trades. "A total of six Rotary Club scholarships per year are awarded, split between automotive/diesel, marine services, and HVAC programs," he explained.

These career certificate programs currently have capacity for more students, and as post-pandemic news stories report, there is high demand for credentialed applicants in almost every field. "The jobs are waiting, and Palm Beach State is ready to help dedicated students get qualified."



Bottom Left Photo: Instructor Greg Paczkowski, in black shirt, is teaching elements of electrical diagnostics testing to students Jose DeJesus, Kylee Graydon, and Atreyu Gaynor, while Juana Paredes, kneeling, tests the battery system

Top Right Photo: Mr. Eligio Marquez, Industrial & Technical Program Director

Bottom Right Photo: Salvador Vega prepares to fix a malfunctioning bow light.

Community Partnerships and Financial Assistance

Lead to Careers in Local Industries

Professor Oleg Andric

Electrical Power Technology student Carla Cruz-Morales works on a power grid simulator

Fourteen years ago, Florida Power & Light Company had a good problem. Continued population growth in its service area required more and better electrical power generation plants – and more plants meant greater need for skilled technicians to operate them. They needed a pipeline linking dedicated students with specialized training on a fast track to graduation and well-paying jobs.

FP&L turned to Palm Beach Community College, as Palm Beach State was then known. Together, they created the Electrical Power Technology associate in science degree program. "This two-year degree program specializes in sensors, controls, computers, and electro-mechanical devices for all kinds of industrial processes," explained Professor Oleg Andric. The program has expanded into alternative energy as wind and solar energy become the predominant source of electrical power generation.

In addition, "Modern gas turbine powerplants operate with the same technology as a jet engine, so we branched out." Today about half the graduates work in the power industry, and the other half in aerospace.

True to its mission, the Palm Beach State program now partners with Pratt & Whitney, Sikorsky, Aerojet Rocketdyne, and Lockheed Martin, and others, in addition to FP&L. "We look at this program as true community partnerships. Our business partners feel they are part-owners of our associate in science program, along with the college," Professor Andric added.

When students of the program graduate, many of those same companies that helped train them are there with well-paying jobs. "Over the past seven years, one-hundred percent of our graduates have been placed in well-paying, long-term industry jobs with great working conditions," he said proudly. Yet Palm Beach State only meets about fifty percent of local industry needs. "There's plenty of opportunity out there."

Felipe R. Julio

Palm Beach State College Class of 2021

Felipe Julio's path to an Associate Degree from Palm Beach State College was anything but easy. Born in Brazil, he came to the United States with his undocumented parents in 1999, at age eleven, settling in south Florida where he attended elementary, middle, and high school. "I did fairly well in high school, until I hit a rebellious phase in my junior year," he said. "I got upset with life – I just didn't care and failed a bunch of classes that year."

He credits his mother for turning his life around. "My mom had instilled in me the drive to be my best, and that finally kicked in." By the time he entered his senior year in high school he was back in high gear, got straight A's.

He graduated from high school in 2007, and a new reality struck him. Even though he had attended local public schools since he was eleven, because he was undocumented, he was ineligible for federal financial aid. To make matters worse, without papers he was ineligible for in-state tuition rates at that time. The costs were prohibitive. So, he went to work.

In 2013, he thought his college dreams had finally come true when Former President Barak Obama signed into law the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals act. DACA certificate in hand, Felipe went to the PBSC admissions office, only to learn he would have to pay out-of-state tuition rates because the state did not recognize DACA as residency.

Unable to afford the higher tuition costs and ineligible for financial aid, he went back to work but didn't give up. He started the process of applying for a green card. Five years later, in 2018, he received it and was finally eligible for in-state tuition.

Felipe began classes at Palm Beach State in 2018. His first class was intermediate algebra. While he was nervous about having been out of school for so long, his professor said he had a talent for math, and suggested he help other students by working in what is today called PALS (Panther Academic Learning Support). "It's tutoring, but you work in the classroom alongside the professor, assisting students from that class. It's a great program," Felipe explained.

Fourteen years after graduating from high school, Felipe R. Julio graduated from the Honors College at Palm Beach State with a 4.0 GPA. Today he is a fulltime junior at Florida Atlantic University on a scholarship and financial assistance.

When did you attend Palm Beach State?
"From May 2018 to December 2021."

What attracted you to PBSC?
"Because it had been so long since I had been in school, I thought I'd feel like I was drowning in a big college. At Palm Beach State you are in classrooms with 20 kids, not an auditorium with 200. It's a community. And for in-state residents, it's affordable. That made a big difference for me because I was paying for it."

How long did you attend?
"Three and a half years, going part-time while working."

Did you earn a degree?
"Yes, an A. A. degree."

What did you do after you left PBSC? "I transferred full-time to FAU with a scholarship and financial assistance."

What were some of your fondest memories of your time at PBSC?
"There are so many little things, but I think the biggest is the Phi Theta Kappa honors society. I was president my last year. Many of the people I met there will be lifelong friends. Plus working with other students through the PALS program was a great experience on so many levels. And I will never forget Professor Timothy Benham. A great teacher, and his 'Honors Knowledge through the Ages' was amazing."

What is one thing you'd like people to know about today's PBSC? "Getting the college experience in a smaller environment is priceless. It's inclusive, and makes students feel truly welcome."

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

Established 1933

BELLE GLADE CAMPUS
1977 College Drive
Belle Glade, FL 33430
561.996.7222

BOCA RATON CAMPUS
801 Palm Beach State
College Drive
Boca Raton, FL 33431
561.393.7222

LAKE WORTH CAMPUS
4200 Congress Avenue
Lake Worth, FL 33461
561.967.7222

LOXAHATCHEE GROVES CAMPUS
15845 Southern Boulevard
Loxahatchee, FL 33470
561.790.9000

PALM BEACH GARDENS CAMPUS
3160 PGA Boulevard
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
561.624.7222

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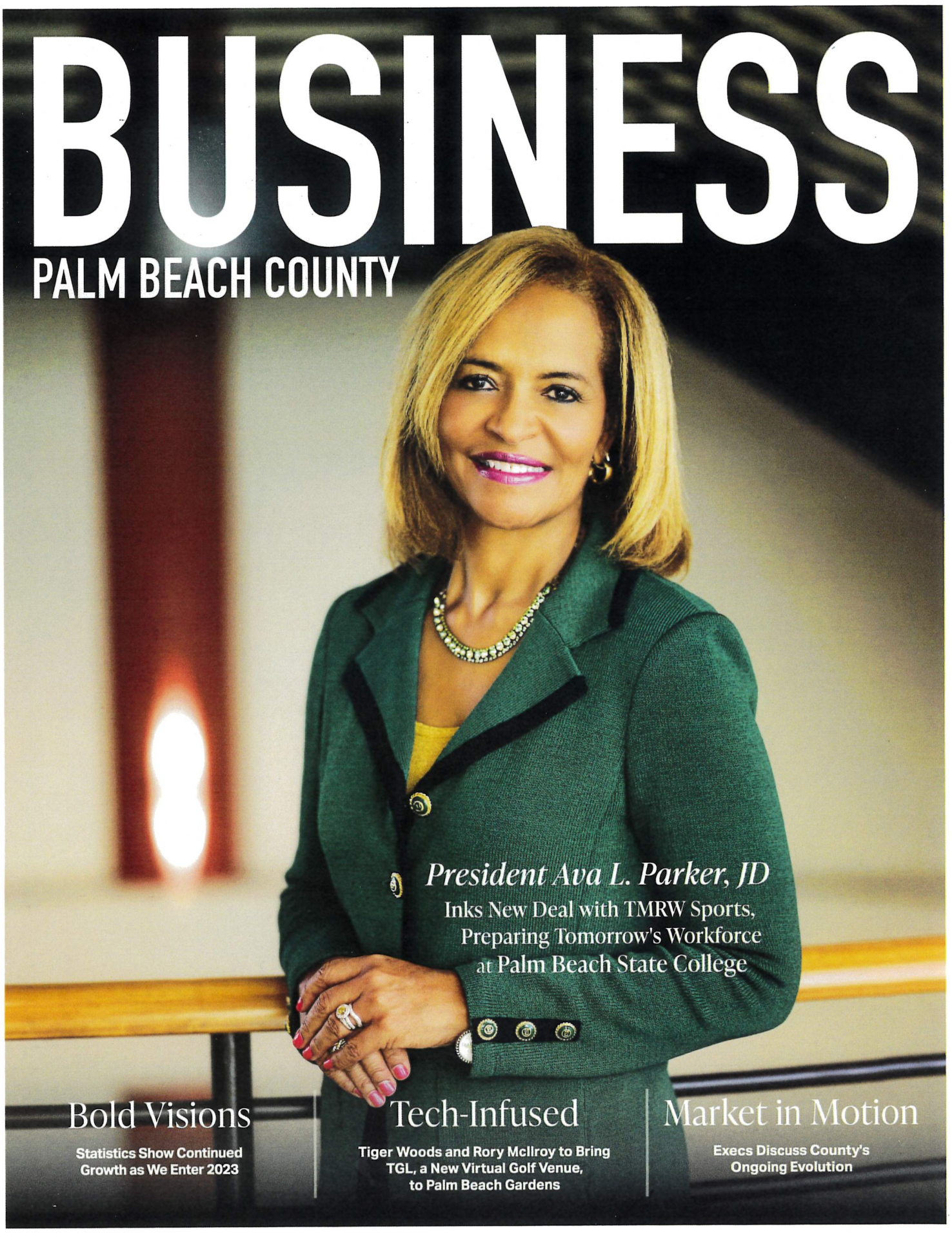


President Ava L. Parker, JD
Inks New Deal with TMRW Sports, Preparing Tomorrow's Workforce at Palm Beach State College

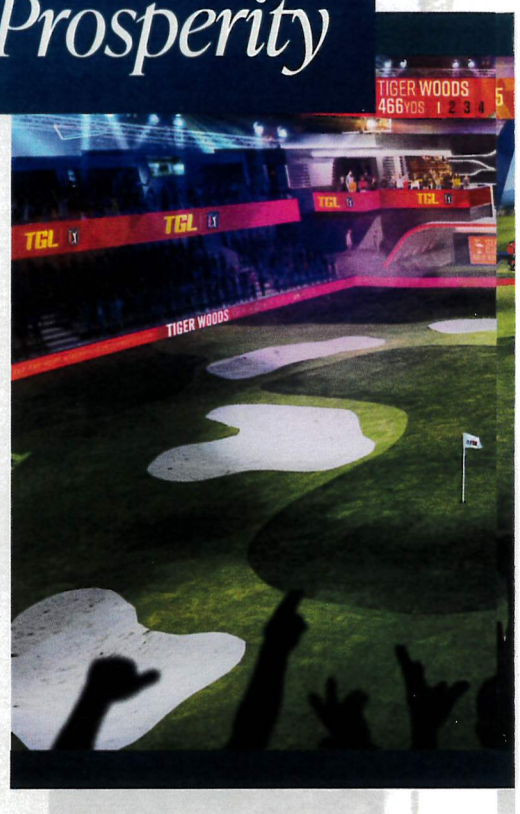
Bold Visions
Statistics Show Continued Growth as We Enter 2023

Tech-Infused
Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy to Bring TGL, a New Virtual Golf Venue, to Palm Beach Gardens

Market in Motion
Execs Discuss County's Ongoing Evolution

Palm Beach *State College:*

The County's Pathway to Prosperity



WHEN PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE ANNOUNCED in December a partnership with TMRW Sports to build a high-tech venue at its Palm Beach Gardens campus, the news reflected the college's ongoing and creative approach to business collaboration in support of student education.

The initiative will come to life as TGL, a high-tech golf league created in partnership with the PGA Tour and backed by golfers Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, and TMRW founder and CEO Mike McCarley. With an investment of $9.1 million of in-kind services to the college and $1.7 million in infrastructure improvements, the venture will provide educational and professional growth opportunities for the college, its students and the community.

"This is a proud moment in Palm Beach State College's history that promises to advance our institution's recognition as a leader in providing pathways to innovative careers that transform the lives of our students," President Ava L. Parker, J.D., said at the time. "The TMRW Sports partnership will provide many benefits to the college and provide our students with access to training and employment opportunities in emerging tech fields that will set a strong foundation for their future success."

This is just the role Palm Beach State College has come to play for employers in need of highly skilled talent. Established in 1933 as Florida's first public community college, Palm Beach State has seen many of its 140,000 alumni go on to successful careers across the region.

Its success begins at home. PBSC drives $1.1 billion in local economic impact, employing more than 2,500 faculty, adjunct faculty, staff and other personnel. The college also provides $75 million in financial aid awarded to students on its five campuses and online and hybrid programs.

For employers, PBSC is a pipeline for skilled talent. PBSC offers 130 programs of study, including bachelor's and associate degrees, professional certificates, career training and lifelong learning. Scores of leaders from local businesses and organizations employ and mentor students and influence the development of educational and workforce programs. The college also works closely with the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County on identifying areas of development to better serve the business community.

"Woven into each program's success is this very strong fabric of business advisors," Parker said. "They help us understand the kind of employees they need. Then as students graduate, they're first in line to hire them."

In the classroom, upgraded technology features multimodal teaching and learning, augmented reality and virtual reality equipment, and machine learning and 3-D visualization. These foster pathways to careers in high technology, health and medical fields, business, and vocational and technical sectors.

What students and employers find is a relatively quick career path—starting with a certificate, and growing to an associate's and then bachelor's degree. Students can then seamlessly transfer to four-year degree and post-graduate programs at partnering Florida and national universities.

"The DNA of a community college is that we meet the students and the communities we serve where they are," Parker said.

The partnerships and accolades are focused on the future. Amazon selected PBSC as an education partner for its Career Choice program, which provides Amazon's hourly employees access to the college's degree and certificate programs.

PBSC *FAST FACTS*

From its five campuses in Belle Glade, Boca Raton, Lake Worth Beach, Loxahatchee Groves and Palm Beach Gardens—plus PBSC Online—Palm Beach State College serves a diverse student population:

- 34% Hispanic
- 30% White
- 29% Black
- 7% All Other
- 60% Female
- 38% Male
- 2% Not Declared

FAST FACT: *PBSC is the county's leading educator of first responders. Since 1999, PBSC has trained 4,500 nurses and 7,800 police, firefighters, paramedics and EMTs.*

Mike McCarley, Founder and CEO of TMRW Sports; Ava L. Parker, J.D., President, Palm Beach State College; David Rutherford, Vice President, Institutional Advancement and CEO of The Foundation for Palm Beach State College; Patrice Bishop, Vice Chair, District Board of Trustees, Palm Beach State College (standing).

The college is one of 70 community colleges nationwide selected to participate in the Artificial Intelligence Incubator Network. In this initiative, created by Intel, Dell Technologies and the American Association of Community Colleges, colleges collaborate on creating an AI curriculum, teaching best practices, and lab development.

This quarter, the college expects to break ground on a $50 million dental and medical services technology building at the Dennis P. Gallon Campus in Loxahatchee Groves. The 84,000-square-foot facility will offer certificates and degrees in dental hygiene and assisting, surgical services, and physical therapist assisting.

"PBSC's job is to prepare our community for the jobs being created. One of the primary roles of a community college is to provide the instructional infrastructure that supports job growth that benefits residents," President Parker said. "With so much economic development underway, PBSC will play a critical role in the success of Palm Beach County by ensuring that our residents will benefit from higher-earning occupations in this growing knowledge-based economy."

"Woven into each program's success is this very strong fabric of business advisors."

Ava L. Parker, President
Palm Beach State College

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE TRAINS AND UPSKILLS TOMORROW'S EMPLOYEES TODAY, IN SUCH FIELDS AS:

- Health care
- Technology
- Business, marketing and sports management
- Hospitality
- Supply chain management
- Law enforcement, first-responder and public safety
- Manufacturing
- Construction

PALM BEACH STATE
COLLEGE